

Message Text

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

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TAGS:E RN, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD MC WORKING GROUP ON CONTAINER TRANSPORT,
OCTOBER 9

FOLLOWING ARE GUIDELINES AND BACKGROUND FOR USDEL TO
SUBJECT MEETING (DAF/MTC/73.46).

1. THE WORKING GROUP ON CONTAINER TRANSPORT WILL CONSIDER
PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL
PREPARATORY GROUP FOR THE ELABORATION OF A CONVENTION ON
INTERNATIONAL INTERMODAL TRANSPORT, TO BE HELD IN GENEVA,
29 OCTOBER-2 NOVEMBER.

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A) THE USDEL SHOULD BE GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS EMERGING FROM THE AUGUST 22 MEETING OF THE UNEC SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTAINERIZATION AND INTERMODAL TRANSPORT.

1) IN THE UNCTAD FORUM, WE WILL SEEK TO (A) KEEP WORK ON AN INTERMODAL CONVENTION LIMITED TO THE DOCUMENTARY/LIABILITY ISSUES; (B) URGE THAT ANY STUDIES ON INTERMODALISM TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY UNCTAD BE TAILORED TO RESOLVE PRACTICAL QUESTIONS ARISING FROM CONSIDERATION OF A POSSIBLE DRAFT CONVENTION; AND (C) AVOID ANY LDC EFFORT THAT WOULD HAMPER INTERMODAL TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT.

II) IN THE OECD/MTC FORUM, WE WILL (A) SEEK TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR US POSITIONS IN UNCTAD AND DEVELOP TO EXTENT POSSIBLE GROUP B POSITIONS; (B) WORK ESPECIALLY CLOSELY WITH THOSE OECD COUNTRIES (E.G. AUSTRALIA, CANADA, AND NEW ZEALAND) WHICH SHARE MANY OF OUR VIEWS ON THE APPROPRIATE PRINCIPLES OF MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT CONVENTION; (C) ATTEMPT TO HOLD OPEN THE OPTION, ESPECIALLY IF WORK IN UNCTAD ON THIS CONVENTION FLOUNDERS AND IF IT APPEARS DESIRABLE, OF THE DEVELOPMENT WITH LIKE-MINDED STATES OF A REGIONAL CONVENTION APPLICABLE MAINLY TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

B) THE USDEL SHOULD ALSO BE GUIDED BY THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE UNEC AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE GUIDELINES FOR AN INTERNATIONAL INTERMODAL TRANSPORT CONVENTION. COPY AIRPOUCHED TO USOECD (R. PFEIFFER).

C) THE USDEL MAY, IF IT APPEARS DESIRABLE, AGREE TO TABLING OF A SET OF DISCUSSION PRINCIPLES ON A CONVENTION AS WORKED OUT WITH THE DELEGATES OF CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND IN WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 28-29, SUBSEQUENT TO ATTEMPTING TO ENLARGE THE BASE OF SUPPORT FOR SUCH DISCUSSION PRINCIPLES THROUGH CORRIDOR TALKS WITH OTHER OECD DELS.

2. WE EXPECT THAT THE FALL UNCTAD MEETING WILL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAINLY ORGANIZATIONAL. HOWEVER, DECISIONS WILL PROBABLY BE TAKEN ON THE VARIOUS STUDIES ON ASPECTS OF INTERMODAL TRANSPORT TO BE UNDERTAKEN WITHIN UNCTAD. WE HOPE TO USE THE OECD/MTC FORUM TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR THE NOTION THAT ANY UNCTAD WORK ON AN INTERMODAL TRANSPORT CONVENTION CONCENTRATE ON THE LIABILITY/DOCUMENTARY ASPECTS REGIME AND THAT UNCTAD STUDIES BE ADDRESSED TO PRACTICAL QUESTIONS RELATED TO POSSIBLE

DRAFT CONVENTION. KISSINGER

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